Large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources

2140. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States was indulging in large scale smuggling of India's genetic resources and then patenting them to the detriment of our economy; and

(b) the measures taken to check such activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No complaint has been received; genetic resources in the public domain are not patentable.

(b) A national legislation to regulate access to genetic materials is under formulation.

Technology Development Mission on oil seeds

2141. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technology Development Mission on oil seeds propose to encourage palm oil plantation to encourage palm oil porduction;

(b) if so, the action taken on a request of the Andhra Pradesh Government for financial help to set up a palm oil mill in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) when the sanction is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to encourage cultivation of Oil Palm, Government is providing assistance to selected States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, Oil Palm Development Programme (OPDP) for planting material, cultivation during gestation period, drip irrigation installation, training of extension staff and farmers, publicity & extension and establishment including staff. Besides, Govt. is also providing financial assistance for Research and Development Programmes on Oil Palm as well as for setting up demonstration processing units of Oil Palm for the transfer of technology under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Research and Development in Post Harvest Technology in Oilseeds and Pulses.

(b) Govt. has not received any request from Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for financial help to set up a palm oil mill in Andhra Pradesh under the Mission Programme, referred to above.

(c) Does not arise.

Technological self reliance by CSIR Laboratories

2142. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the programmes of CSIR laboratories aiming at technological self reliance;

(b) technical consultancy capabilities in the State of Andhra Pradesh and manpower engaged for the purpose;

(c) whether the consultancy services remain underutilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) In its 'vision & strategy CSIR 2001' document CSIR has enunciated its strategy for technological self reliance inter alia focussing on;